

have increased resulting in decline in average yield on advances and higher provisioning requirements. The Bank has taken steps to improve its performance by closely monitoring the NPA accounts, settling maximum number of cases under one-time settlement scheme of Reserve Bank of India, reducing its expenses, mobilizing low cost deposits, stepping up recoveries in written off accounts, improvement in funds management system and increase in fee based business.

Seizure of pieces of currency notes

[†]66. **SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) what is Government's reaction to the news-item appearing in Rajdhani Jagaran dated 28th January, 2001, under the caption "Kabadi ke yahan noton ki katran bhari boriyan milin";
- (b) whether a thorough investigation has been made in this matter;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) The matter has been investigated. The paper cuttings referred to in the news-item are actually waste security paper side trimmings, which is the waste arising after taking out the printed bank notes from the water-marked paper. The colours found on these trimmings are due to spill over inks during printing. The waste trimmings are disposed of through open tender for further disposal/pulping.

[†] Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.